



Ninety-Eighth Legislature - First Session - 2003
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 348

Chairperson: Ed Schrock
Committee: Natural Resources
Date of Hearing: February 20, 2003

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of LB 348 is to amend the State Boat Act to change the minimum operator age for motor boats and personal water craft from 14 to 16, and change the minimum age of an individual to which a boat livery may rent a motor boat or personal watercraft from 16 to 18.

LB 348 also requires completion of a boat safety course or an exam (in certain circumstances) before being allowed to operate a motor boat or personal watercraft. Fees collected under the State Boat Act would be used to enforce the act, including providing the boating safety courses. Boats would also be allowed to be registered through any county in the state (e.g., the county where the boat is maintained) rather than requiring registration in the individual's county treasurer's office of residence.

LB 348 increases the minimum following distance when "wake jumping" from 30 yards to 50 yards and prohibits wake jumping behind a motor boat or personal water craft with someone in tow.

In addition, LB 348 requires that the Game and Parks Commission or any other law enforcement agency investigating an accident must notify the State Patrol if the accident involves a fatality, missing person, or injury. The State Patrol may assist the Game and Parks Commission or other law enforcement agency with activities related to the accident.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Philip Erdman